



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

November 14, 2000

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project

Bonneville Power Administration is working with several partners on a project that may affect or interest you—the Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project. This letter briefly explains what we are proposing, asks for your ideas as we begin our environmental study, and tells how you can receive more information.

Proposal

This project is a joint effort of the Nez Perce Tribe, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla.

We are proposing to build new egg incubation and juvenile rearing facilities next to both the Lostine and Imnaha Rivers (see enclosed map). Also, on the Imnaha River, the existing Gumboot adult collection facility would be modified. We also plan to modify Lookingglass Hatchery for Upper Grande Ronde, Catherine Creek, and Lookingglass Creek spring chinook salmon.

The existing facilities and production programs are part of the ongoing Lower Snake River Compensation Plan and the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. These additional facilities will help these ongoing programs meet their conservation, compensation, and recovery goals for spring chinook salmon. Spring chinook salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Analysis

As a federal agency, BPA must study the environmental impacts, both adverse and beneficial, of a proposed project before it can proceed. This requirement is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. We are just starting to prepare an Environmental Assessment of the proposal and we'd like your help.

To Comment

What issues does this proposal raise? What should we study? What do you like about the proposal? Any ideas you want to share would be appreciated. As you may know, tribal and Oregon fish and wildlife staff have had some local meetings in the past that have been very valuable. Please let us know if you would like to have a meeting in your area.

You can call our toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519 and leave a message naming this project; send an e-mail to comment@bpa.gov; or mail your comments to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration - KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon, 97212. If you comment by December 15, we'll be able to address your comments in the Environmental Assessment.

Project Schedule

We plan to have a Environmental Assessment ready for public review early next spring. If you would like to receive a copy when it is available, please return the enclosed postcard and check the appropriate box. If you don't return the postcard we will still send you notice when the study is available for public review.

For More Information

In the meantime, if you have questions, call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713 or at my direct number 503-230-7349 or send me an e-mail at prsmith@bpa.gov. You can also call Becky Ashe, Project Leader for the Nez Perce Tribe, at 208-843-7320, ext. 2433. Her e-mail address is beckya@nezperce.org. Also, check out our web site for project information at www.efw.bpa.gov. Look under "environmental analysis."

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Patricia R. Smith
Environmental Project Lead

Enclosures:

Map

Postcard

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project

- ▲ Modify Existing Facilities
- ◆ Potential Site - Incubation and / or Rearing Facilities

State, Federal, Tribal, County, City Lands

Private or Other

Major Road

Interstate

Subbasin Boundary

BASIN LOCATION



October 22, 2001

